



# ALTERNATIVE INFORMATION RECORD

A.I.R. - ISSUE ONE - MARCH 1990 -

Welcome to the first issue of AIR- the Alternative Information Record. We hope it puts paid to the notion that librarianship goes hand-in-hand with dullness or dreariness.

AIR is the journal of Librarians Within the Peace Movement (LWPM). So AIR is a network and a newsletter for those who believe in using information and information skills for positive change.

We want you to contribute your views and ideas in the form of short articles or letters, or by sending us items of interest. We feel that the time is right for Librarians Within the Peace Movement and for AIR. Help to prove us right!

We have received quite a lot of letters from people interested in the Librarians Within the Peace Movement concept and network. People have been in touch with us who work at the British Library, Newcastle Poly (2 of them!), Marylebone Library, a multi-national, the Rainbow Peace Centre in Nottingham, the librarian of the Manchester Bahais, computer organisations and centres, etc., etc.

Teresa Serpel writes to us from the United States and asks us to network her address to those interested in information and peace issues. Her address is: 3637 Rosewood Place; Riverside; CA 92506; USA.

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Librarians Within  
the Peace Movement,  
c/o 6 Endsleigh  
Street,  
London WC1

# In the AIR

Here are some suggestions of issues that you might like to write about for AIR, and also of regular features that we might include in future issues.

So, if you have anything to say on these topics or anything else, please let us know!

1) The experiences and thoughts of those working in libraries, on the subject of peace information provision, or about such things as how to deal with violence and aggression in libraries as librarians concerned with peace; views on censorship, etc.

2) Peace education and librarianship in schools

3) A "wanted," "exchange," and "free" section for books, periodicals, etc.; specific information on the past history of the peace movement; information about current organisations and ideas in the peace movement; interesting quotes; information about and reviews of useful resources such

bibliographies, abstracts, classification schemes, specialist collections, etc.

4) A letters page to encourage suggestions, criticism, praise, lively debate, networking, etc.

5) The resources and methods people working in the area of peace information provision use to answer specific queries and information needs

6) Articles on the practical side of dealing with peace information, e.g. practical tips for archiving, managing files, creating a database, etc.

7) Peace research-what is going on in the universities, polytechnics and colleges in Britain.



Well placed

Both students at library schools and peace organisations should be aware that it is possible for students to do placements at such organisations.

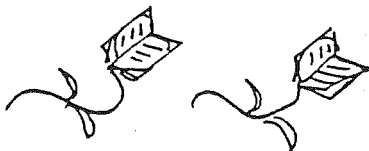
I did the one-year Postgraduate Diploma in Library Studies at the Polytechnic of North London in 1985-6 and had a three week placement at the Campaign Against the Arms Trade (CAAT).

All students were asked to submit a list of organisations or institutions they would like to be placed with during this three week stint part of the course. My list consisted of about 20 peace organisations and CAAT agreed to take me on.

I doubt if many other library school students have had a similar idea but perhaps more might consider it if a) they see some information from peace organisations who would like to help them apply information skills to their materials and b) it becomes more widely known that it can be done.

Declan McHugh

# Making LINKS



We are pleased to promote another new and worthy librarians' group- LINK: a network for North/South library development. The following is reproduced from LINK's press release:-

LINK intends to be an informed, experienced and realistic forum that will raise awareness of "Third World" library issues within the information-related professions of the "North." It aims to link librarians and libraries of the "South" with colleagues worldwide, for their mutual benefit and it will provide support, briefing and continuing information to individuals who intend to do information work in the "Third World."

Specific objectives and activities of the group include:

\* producing a directory of network participants and other resources that can facilitate the main aims of the network, such as people with

experience and expertise; organisations that support library projects; training opportunities for librarians overseas.

\* producing a newsletter- LINK-UP- to inform, link and support participants' activities.

\* supporting librarians and information workers in developing countries.

\* supporting students, librarians and information workers from overseas who are studying in the UK.

\* providing information and support to individuals before, during, and after their work overseas.

\* raising awareness of "Third World" library issues among librarians in the UK, through professional bodies and related organisations, and through library schools and students.

...[LINK's members] ... are librarians and information workers who have worked alongside local colleagues in libraries and

information centres in the "South," trying to provide basic services and solve problems on a day-to-day basis. Much of this experience has come from "volunteer" projects associated with organisations like VSO, UNAIS and CUSO. [They] want to keep these issues visible and also contribute to further development and improvement of libraries and information services in the "South."

If you are interested in these issues, or have useful experience and ideas to share, please contact Gillian Harris, 64 Ennersdale Road, London SE13 5JD.



# Contact

Librarians for  
Nuclear Arms Control  
(LNAC)  
P.O. Box 60552  
Pasadena  
CA 91116  
USA  
Tel. (818) 795-7331

LNAC (an acronym nearly as bad as LWPM) is a non-profit educational organisation that seeks to inform its supporters and others about nuclear weapons issues. The volunteer staff publish a newsletter, produce free bibliographies, and give advice to individuals and groups.

Peace Information  
Exchange Task Force  
c/o Stephen J.  
Stillwell, Jr., Task  
Force Co-ordinator  
CSIA Library  
79 Kennedy Street #  
369  
Cambridge  
MA 02138  
USA  
Tel. (617) 495-1408

The PIETF was established in 1977 under the umbrella of the Social Responsibilities Round Table. A need was felt to encourage awareness of peace resources. The founders also believe that libraries and librarians should rightfully be playing a major role in education in our society, and that, by increasing public awareness of issues like conflict management, they begin to fulfil such a role.

## Also in America

### PEACE LIBRARY SET UP BY US CONGRESS

The United States Institute of Peace, a non-partisan government institution founded and funded by Congress to expand available knowledge about ways to achieve a more peaceful world, has instituted a library programme.

Under the Jeanette Rankin Library Program, named after the first woman to serve in the United States Congress, a specialised research library will be set up for the Institute's fellows and employees which the institute hopes will become a major resource for scholars worldwide. The library will develop an oral history resource, drawing initially upon the recollections of people who have participated directly in international peace-making activities, such as diplomats or individual conciliators, and will develop ways to increase access to information relevant to international peace and conflict management, through bibliographies, catalogues, indexes,

computerised  
databases, etc.

The Director of the Jeanette Rankin Library Program is Geraldine Jones who will be assisted by Dr Elizabeth Stone, former President of the American Library Association and Dean of the School of Library and Information Science of The Catholic University of America, as consultant. She can be contacted at the United States Institute of Peace, 1550 M Street NW, Suite 700, Washington DC 20005, US.

(Reproduced from the Library Association Record, No. 91, Feb.1989)



A I R    A L T E R N A T I V E    I N F O R M A T I O N    R E C O R D

AIR is the journal of Librarians Within the Peace Movement (LWPM).

AIR is concerned with sharing information about peace and related issues with all who work with information, in libraries or archives, and with activists, wherever they are.

AIR contains news about peace movement libraries and archives, articles about how practical problems have been solved, reviews, short snippets of lively humorous information, letters, debate, - and much, much more.

AIR is a newsletter to help peace movement information workers, librarians, archivists, and activists share knowledge and experience.

AIR contains details about new databases, specialist bibliographical news from the library and information worlds, and from the peace movement too.

Most of all AIR is a networking tool to be used!

AIR is now available on subscription at ONLY £5.00. per year.\*

.....

Yes! Please open a subscription to AIR for me.  
I enclose £ . . . Subscription for AIR .  
I enclose £ . . . Donation towards the work of LWPM.  
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Signed.....Date.....

\* One year's subscription equals 5 issues.  
N.B. Overseas Subscribers. All payments must be in sterling only.  
Outside Europe the subscription rate is £ 6.50.

Librarians Within the Peace Movement.  
c/o 6 Endsleigh Street, London W.C.1.

# Peace by any other name

Consistency of terminology when indexing materials is a major problem in such a "soft" area as peace.

The only thesaurus I know of which sets out to tackle the problem in some depth in the area of peace is the "Peace and Security Thesaurus" produced by the Information Services of the Canadian Institute for International Peace and Security. I have the March 1989 edition.

The Thesaurus consists of an A-Z listing of the chosen descriptors in the field with, where appropriate, scope notes, broader terms (BT), narrower terms (NT), related terms (RT), and use for (UF) pointers. For example:

Nuclear weapons  
UF Atomic weapons  
Nuclear capable ships  
NT Tactical nuclear weapons  
RT Nuclear weapon-free zones (NWFZ)  
Nuclear weapons disposal  
Nuclear weapons facilities  
Nuclear weapons production  
Nuclear weapons storage  
Nuclear weapons technology  
Nuclear testing  
Stockpiling

There is also a KWOC (Keyword Out of Context) index to all the terms used in the Thesaurus, which is a useful way of classing together keywords and their associated concepts.

For example:

Conflicts  
Ethnic conflicts  
Global conflicts  
Ideological conflicts  
Low-intensity conflicts  
Regional conflicts  
Religious conflicts  
Resource conflicts

I have found the Thesaurus useful in adding a better sense of structure to my conceptualisation of peace, although perhaps its treatment is not extensive enough for all my needs, working as I do for an organisation which treats peace as involving disarmament, development, human rights, and environmental issues.

There are a few seeming inconsistencies, which are only to be expected in a pioneering work attempting to chart the area of peace. For example: under "space-based weapons" there are two related terms- "space-based defence" and "strategic defence," but not "space warfare," which is a descriptor also.

The Thesaurus is available from:

The Canadian Institute for International Peace and Security  
360 Albert, Suite 900  
Ottawa  
Ontario  
K1R 7X7  
Canada  
Tel. (613) 990-1593

I received a gift copy, so I'm not sure of the price.

Declan McHugh



# Info International

## EUROPEAN AND WORLD INFORMATION CENTRES IN LIBRARIES

The following article is reproduced from "Focuses for peace in the modern world," by H.K. Compton (1988).

Outlined below is a suggestion made in the "Library Association Record" by the author in 1986 to set up the above "centres."

A "centre" involves the provision of space in (preferably) the Library Reading Room for periodicals, where current literature can be displayed on topics directly associated with European and world affairs.

It is suggested that the periodicals be transferred to the Reference Section of the library as each is replaced by the subsequent issue and retained for further reference.

Care must be taken to ensure that material is excluded which is of a "party political" nature or which does not provide information on world affairs.

As in the original proposal ..., the word "peace" has been avoided. "Positive peace" ... is more likely if people have access to information on the political, ethical, economic and social conditions, as well as the drives which affect relationships between States rather than a concentration upon "negative peace".....

... Many [suitable periodicals] are free on request, and I quote below the comments of Lord Ennals (Chairman of UNA (UK)) in a forward to the article in "Library Association Record":

"One of the problems facing the Department of Public Information of the United Nations and the publicity and information units of its specialized agencies is the successful and widespread dissemination of core materials to members of the public. A carefully thought out selection of UN materials would prove an invaluable library resource. I am sure, too, that Commonwealth and

European bodies would welcome an involvement and I can safely say that some of our United Nations Association literature could be sent to any centres which are established.

I know, too, that local UNA Branches would be ready to cooperate in any mutually acceptable ways in helping to launch and promote these library centres and I wish the initiative every possible success."

Religious bodies and educational establishments may well be interested in using the "centres" besides those NGOs which support the establishment of "world order" i.e. of "positive peace." Further details from the author on request.



# RESOURCES



## BIBLIOGRAPHICAL AIDS FOR PEACE RESEARCH

Bibliography on peace research in history  
Ed. Blanche Wiesen Cooke  
(Santa Barbara, CA: ABC Clio, Inc., 1969)

Bibliography on world conflict and peace.  
Comp. Elise Boulding, J. Robert Passmore, & Robert Scott Gassler  
(Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 1979)

Biographical dictionary of modern peace leaders  
Ed. Harold Josephson  
(To be published as a two-volume work by Greenwood Press in the summer of 1985)

Biographical dictionary of internationalists  
Ed. Warren Kuehl  
(Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1983)

The Garland library of war and peace. A collection of 360 titles reprinted in 328 volumes.  
Ed. Blanche Wiesen Cook, Charles Chatfield, & Sandi Cooper  
(New York: Garland Publishing, Inc., 1971)

Journals of dissent and social change. A bibliography of titles in the California State University Library, Sacramento. 5th edition.  
Comp. John Liberty  
(Sacramento: The Library, California State University, 1981)

The library of world peace studies  
Ed. Warren F. Kuehl  
(New York: Clearwater Publishing Co., Inc.)

Peace and war: a guide to bibliographies  
Ed. Berenice A. Carroll, Clinton F. Fink, & Jane E. Mohraz  
(Santa Barbara, CA: ABC Clio, Inc., 1983)

(From: "Peace archives: a guide to library collections," The World Without War Council, USA, 1986)

Note: Due to the constraints of time in compiling AIR, we have been unable to check the accuracy of these references—i.e. whether these works are still in print, or available outside the USA, etc.

There are two new selected reading lists on peace issues available from the Peace Pledge Union, 6 Endsleigh Street, London WC1.

One contains annotated bibliographical references to books on: "Memoirs and biography," "Moral and Psychological Issues," "Poetry," "Fiction," "Contemporary Issues," and "History." The other has references to printed materials on "Pacifism," "Christian Pacifism," "Gandhi, King, and Tolstoy," "Nonviolence/Nonviolent Action," "Disarmament," and "Co-operative Learning."

They are 10p each (not including postage.)

## Thought

"Libraries are the arsenals of a democratic culture."

(Taken from the title of S. Ditzion's book "Arsenals of a Democratic Culture.")



# NUKE SPEAKE

What would be the role of librarians after a nuclear attack (whether retaliatory or first-strike)?

Probably not many of us have thought about this, but perhaps we should because the Government appears to be thinking about it.

A Lambeth Council news release in November 1989 brought into the open the fact that among plans for the borough after such an attack is the co-option of different groups of professionals to perform various tasks. Teachers are to be responsible for distributing food and drink as well as monitoring radiation fall-out, and "Librarians will be told to issue local news sheets."

It would be worth trying to get hold of a copy of the full London Fire and Civil Defence Authority (LFCDA) document about planning for the aftermath of nuclear attack to see whether any more can be gleaned about Government thinking on the subject. Any moles out there?

"Librarians will be told" has a rather ominous ring to it.

Information would be at a premium in such a situation, with devastation, panic, and, after the electromagnetic pulse (EMP), the impossibility of communicating electronically by such means as computers, telephones, faxes, TVs, radios, etc.

Information resources and information personnel would come under enormous pressure from the public to help them find out the best places to go, to supply books on how to attempt repairs, alleviate radiation sickness, etc.

We know that under these circumstances government would become distinctly authoritarian: local official personnel would have sweeping powers to deal with people and situations considered to be troublesome. News would become propaganda and it looks as if librarians would be told to write and disseminate what officials thought the public should believe or know.

I doubt if this would include the locations of local nuclear bunkers for bureaucrats....

Declan McHugh

# The Good, The Bad, and The Idi<sup>o</sup>t<sup>i</sup>c

## Librarians

"We all need them, and at times almost love them; when they let us take out that copy of that not-supposed-to-be taken out copy for that have-to-be-in-by-tomorrow essay. Do we remember them? Thank them? Give them a Mars bar? No. So kiss a librarian today."

(London Student  
9/11/89)

## Music

"When she tries to ooze warmth and sensuality ("I'd love to see you naked," she sings on Cohen's "Ain't No Cure"), it's embarrassingly inappropriate. Horny she ain't. Horn-rimmed, maybe. Welcome to Librarian rock.

(Paul Lester in  
Melody Maker  
24/2/90)

## Quiet please!

Librarians Within the Peace Movement announce themselves thus:

(Peace News 29/9/89)

